

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 COLOMB 02029 011123Z
ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 EUR-08 SP-02 PM-03
NSC-05 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-10
/062 W

-----123085 011130Z /10

R 011055Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0234

S E C R E T COLOMBO 2029

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PORG, PARM, CE, AF

SUBJ: EFFECT OF AFGHAN COUP ON NON-ALIGNED MEETING

REF: A. STATE 108913; B. KABUL 371; C. COLOMBO 1993;
D. STATE 109324

1. DCM SHARED APPROPRIATE PORTIONS OF REF A WITH SENIOR GSL FONOFF OFFICIAL. HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE AND ASKED THAT FOLLOWING REMAIN CLOSELY HELD.
2. ON 28 APRIL, HE HAD MADE SAME REQUEST (REF C) FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SITUATION IN KABUL TO SOVIET EMBASSY HERE. WITHIN A FEW HOURS SOVIET AMBASSADOR RAFIK NISHANOV HIMSELF CAME TO FOREIGN MINISTRY, DESCRIBED AFGHAN COUP IN PAST TENSE AS SUCCESSFUL, SITUATION RAPIDLY RETURNING TO NORMAL, ETC. NISHANOV ORDINARILY VERY SLOW TO RESPOND TO MFA REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND RARELY COMES TO MINISTRY FOR SUCH PURPOSE.
3. A FEW HOURS LATER, GSL HIGH COMMISSIONER IN NEW DELHI REPORTED TO COLOMBO THAT HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY GOI FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA ON SITUATION IN KABUL. MEHTA'S ACCOUNT

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COVERED SAME SUBJECTS AS NISHANOV'S IN SAME ORDER, WITH A NUMBER OF SIMILAR PHRASES, CONCLUDING THAT GOI NOT PREPARED TO HOST NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU MEETING IF KABUL MAY 6-10 GATHERING CANCELLED.

4. GSL SENIOR OFFICIAL VOLUNTEERED THAT BASED ON HIS PVIOUS SERVICE IN MOSCOW, HIS PERSONAL SUSPICIONS OF SOVIETS, AND

FOREGOING HE HAD CONCLUDED:

A) IF SOVIETS NOT INVOLVED IN AFGHAN COUP, THEY AT LEAST
MUST HAVE HAD FOREKNOWLEDGE; THEIR SYSTEM DID NOT ENABLE THEM
TO REACT SO "GRACEFULLY" TO SURPRISES IN THIS AREA;

B) THE NISHANOV/MEHTA BRIEFINGS HAD TOO MUCH SIMILARITY
TO BE ACCIDENTAL. "OUR INDIAN COURSE IS STILL WILLING TO
BE HELPFUL TO THEIR SOVIET FRIENDS."

5. GSL OFFICIAL SAID WITH KABUL INACCESSIBLE, DELHI UN-
WILLING AND COLOMBO "INAPPROPRIATE", HE EXPECTED NON-ALIGNED
COORDINATING BUREAU TO MEET IN NEW YORK JUST PRIOR TO SPECIAL
SESSION ON DISARMAMENT.

WRIGGINS

SECRET

NNN

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